

Morningside Community Council

DRAFT Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 7:30 pm Wednesday 15 May 24

At Open Door, 240 Morningside Road

People present:

MCC office bearers-

Willie Black(WB),Chair, Goff Cantley (GC),Planning, Carol Duncan (CD),Secretary, Moira Gibson (MG), community engagement.

Members-

Jennifer Scarce.

Ex officio-

Cllr Scott Arthur, Cllr Marie-Clair Munro.

Apologies-

Caroline Mckinley, Kerr Fraser, Theo Spannellis.

Attendees-

Amanda Dovesi, Joanne Dovesi, Arne Strid, Peter Stewart, Tamsin Kilgour, Jane Brown, Sheena Nimmo, Irene Hall, Ray Land, Stewart Livingston, Alastair Webb, Kenneth Harvey, Adrian Rainford, Beth Fraser, Donald Macauley, Irene Bruce, Jim Bruce, Marion Woodward, Jill Powlett-Brown, Alastair Philp, John Baldwin, Vivien Baldwin, Alastair Cuthbertson, Gordon Brown, Ves Antonova, Paul Findlay, Douglas Webster and 1 other attendee.

PRESENTATION- TRANSPORT TRANSITION by Cllr Scott Arthur.

MCC welcomed Cllr Arthur to the meeting to explain the ambitious Transport Transition Strategy for the city. Cllr Arthur delivered an excellent powerpoint presentation (available from the MCC website) as well as highlighting the following:

Edinburgh is facing a number of challenges.

- The city is congested,
- Economic development requires the city to expand,
- Car miles have to be reduced and
- Air quality for all needs improving.

The Council has already committed to policies to achieve a 30% reduction in car miles by 2030 and to the delivery of over 23,000 new homes in West Edinburgh.

The status quo won't do it and so the city must transition.

Cllr Arthur acknowledges change can be painful and there will be winners and losers. He also recognises the Council has to manage construction better, nevertheless we have to find ways to get the basics right and have the ambition to support the growth of the city successfully.

Cllr Arthur highlighted the sustainable transport hierarchy. More sustainable transport methods - walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport- provide alternatives to cars trips.

Already 37% of all trips made by Edinburgh residents each week are by bus and tram, and 37% of car travel came from outside the city.

Cllr Arthur highlighted other transport projects:

- Improving the space around the schools
- The 'no parking on pavements' was introduced rapidly and has been successful.
- A bike hire scheme is hopeful.
- The City Centre west to east cycle scheme is open.
- The longer term project for George Street as a better place is to be published on Friday aiming to move tourism upmarket with more money spent in restaurants.
- This project links to a wider City Centre project to filter traffic and prioritise pedestrians and cycle access.
- LEZ is live on the 1st June.
- Reducing delays for buses through the Centre.
- Trial closing of the Cowgate to traffic later in the year.
- 50 electric buses with accessibility improvements to be operational soon.
- Plans for Green light on traffic lights to be linked to traffic movement.
- The tram attracts development and economic growth and further plans to extend the tram routes are starting consultation shortly.

An attendee expressed her view that cycles are not a relevant option of travel and there are dangers from reckless cyclists. (this was discussed further in the MCC business)

Another attendee asked why Comiston road and the A702 is not included in the city wide proposals for managing the radial corridors. Cllr Arthur apologised and said this is an old map.

The use of the south suburban railway was raised and Cllr Arthur advised that the Council is speaking with sub—Network Rail about possible connections, as the future tram route may cross at rail line at 2 points.

Several attendees expressed concern about their small businesses having access to the city centre for their business deliveries. Cllr Arthur assured the meeting that there would be mechanisms for business access.

At the end of the presentation, Willie Black thanked Cllr Arthur and invited those who only wished to listen to the presentation could leave at this point. A number of people retired from the meeting along with Cllr Arthur and Cllr Munro.

POLICE REPORT.

An attendee raised concern about mountain bikers in Hermitage of Braid and was advised to speak to the Natural Heritage Officer. The discussion moved on to cyclists particularly Deliveroo cyclists who jump the lights. ACTION: MCC to ask Police for their method statement for arresting cyclists who behave recklessly.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING.

The Minutes were agreed.

PLANNING.

No update on the Local Place Plan.

TRAVELLING SAFELY.

Attendees from the Braid estate stated their disappointment with the consultation and the consequent decision on the Quiet Route. The attendees are concerned about the missing figures in the T&E committee report on the consultation. An attendee obtained the Council's measure of the traffic in and around the estate and these indicated there is less traffic on Comiston road and more is now going round Midmar. As a consequence of this change residents on Midmar may have opposed the Quiet Route.

There was also a discussion on the vehicle numbers on Comiston Road. Although the traffic numbers may measure less, the traffic is still busy on Comiston Road.

MCC previously submitted their view to the Council that the Quiet Route should remain however there should be a more wholistic approach to the vehicle and active travel movement in the area.

The T&E committee decided on option 3A and another ETRO. This involves a cycle path on Braid Avenue and with reduction on vehicle parking. Residents would like to know more details/and a discussion of any ETRO proposal before it is implemented. ACTION: 1. The attendee and MCC agreed to exchange figures. 2. MCC secretary to email Cllr Arthur and request a Council member or officer's attendance at our next meeting to discuss the report and the future ETRO for the Braid Estate.

TREASURER. WB reported approximately £600 in MCC's bank account.

AOB.

Arne Strid advised the meeting there is a rumour circulating that Waitrose is to close. He explained he spoke to the manager and this is not true. The owner of the building is changing but Waitrose will remain as they tenant.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday at 7.30pm at The Open Door.

An AGM will be held in the first part of the meeting.